**Chapter 4: “The Red Successors” pp. 52–71**

1. When Ji-li’s father talks to her about their family background, he says, “What I want you to know is, whether or not your Grandpa was a landlord or an exploiter, it isn’t your responsibility. . . . [I]t isn’t your fault. You didn’t do anything wrong” (p. 63). Do you agree or disagree with his comments? Why do you think students are blaming Ji-li for her family background?
2. Some students, like Yu Jian, are judged positively because of their family backgrounds. The following saying was popular during the Cultural Revolution: “The son is a hero if the father is a revolutionary. The son is a rotten egg if the father is a counterrevolutionary.”7 Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Do you think it is fair or appropriate to use family background to judge someone in a positive or negative way? Explain your answers.
3. “It was so unfair. I was being punished for something I had not done,” declares Ji-li (p. 70). Have you ever been punished or held responsible for something you did not do? How did it feel? How do you think Ji-li might be feeling at this moment?
4. On page 67, Ji-li says, “I had always been a school leader, a role model. How could I have suddenly become so bad that I needed to be remolded thoroughly?” How do you think Ji-li has changed since the beginning of this memoir (and the beginning of the Cultural Revolution)? Do you agree with Ji-li’s opinion that she had “become bad”? Why or why not? How do you think Ji-li’s identity is being influenced by the context of the Cultural Revolution?